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May 23, 1966

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

by Harold Weisberg

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Enclosed is a copy of my book WHITEWASH - THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT. In it you will find quotations from your testimony and that of FBI Agents that I believe require immediate and unequivocal explanations and from the FBI's report to the Commission. Of the many things requiring explanation, I would like in particular to direct your attention to these three, in which it would seem no question of national security can be involved:

1) In your brief discussion of the assassination in the report to the Commission you say that three shots were fired, of which two hit the President and one the governor. This does not account for the bullet that hit the curbstone on Commerce Street, which you told the Commission you could not associate with the Presidential car or any of its occupants. In another part of this report, dealing with Oswald, you told the Commission that the bullet that did not kill the President struck him in the back - not the neck - and did not go through his body. Here you seem to fail to account for the well-known wound in the front of the President's neck. And thus, are there not at least five bullets, the three you accounted for and the two you did not account for? The Commission itself considered the curbstone strike a separate bullet, and the President most certainly was wounded in the front of the neck.

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2) In his testimony before the Commission, FBI Agent Robert A. Frazier did not offer into evidence the spectrographic analysis of this bullet and that of the various bullet fragments. Neither did FBI Agent John F. Gallagher, the spectrographer. Agent Frazier's testimony is merely that the bullets were lead, which would seem to be considerable less information than spectrographic analysis could reveal. The custodian of this archive at the National Archives informs me this analysis is not included in his archive but is in the possession of the FBI. I call upon you to make it immediately available.

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3) In his testimony before the Commission, FBI Agent Frazier said that when the whole bullet was received by the FBI, it had been wiped clean. He does not reveal any FBI interest in this unusual destruction of evidence. He also testified that the cleansing of the bullet was not complete, that foreign matter remained in the grooves in the bullet. Yet his testimony does not show any FBI interest in learning what the nature of the residue was. Did the FBI make the appropriate tests? Could the residue be associated with either the President's body or the governor's? What effort, if any, was made to learn? And if no effort was made, why not?

Sincerely yours,

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CORRESPONDENCE